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AFRL Rome awards \$1.2 million to Cycorp Inc.

by Fran Crumb, Information Directorate

ROME, N.Y. — The Air Force Research Laboratory's Information Directorate has awarded a \$1,204,791 contract to Cycorp Inc. of Austin, Texas, for research designed to support the next generation internet.

The three-year agreement, "Disparate Ontology Understanding, Brokering, Linking and Elaboration (DOUBLE) for the DARPA Agent Markup Language (DAML)," is funded by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency of Arlington, Va.

"Ontology is a description of categories within a community," said Nancy A. Koziarz, program manager in the directorate's Information Technology Division. "Software agents need to understand the relationships that can exist within the different communities of agents. This research is intended to develop tools to allow agents to query varied environments that use differing ontologies."

DAML is the next generation of Hyper Text Mark-Up Language/Exclusive Markup Language (HTML/XML) - the current computer languages used to create web pages. The goal of the DAML program is to create technologies that will enable software agents to dynamically identify and understand information sources, and to provide interoperability between agents in a semantic manner.

Software agents have their own internal problem-solving abilities, which allow them to continuously collect specific information and determine when new information must be obtained to remain current in support of decision-makers. Agent technology has the potential to assist users with informational changes and uncertainty associated with strategy and tactics for battlefield command and control, as well as peacetime crisis management situations. @